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±*BC-Casey±
*By Christopher Hanson±
WASHINGTON, Jan 13, Reuter -- CIA director-designate William Casey pledged today to improve the agency's intelligence analysis, claiming that misreadings of Soviet intentions had caused serious problems over the years.

In a confirmation hearing, he told the Senate Intelligence Committee that it was faulty analysis of intelligence which led to early misinterpretation of crises in Cuba in 1962 and of Soviet preparations to invade Czechoslovakia in 1968.

''In an era of increasing military vulnerability, effective intelligence is of far greater importance than it may have been some years ago when we had clear military superiority,'' he said.

Mr Casey, 67, a former World War II intelligence officer and the man who directed Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign, said, however, that he would not bring about a ''bureaucratic shakeup'' of the agency.

Instead, he said steps would be taken to make the agency more effective through attracting highly competitent intelligence analysists and ''tapping the insights of the nation's scholars.''±

±*BC-Casey 2 Washington±
Mr Casey said it is vital that the CIA's self-image be improved.

''The CIA suffers institutional self-doubt and the morale of much of the agency is low,'' he said.

The nominee added that the agency has too often been subject to public criticism as an institution which must be tightly restrained, adding that little has been done recently to stress the vital role of the intelligence community in protecting America's national interest.

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MR CASEY SAID HIS ROLE, IF HE IS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE, WILL BE TO PRESENT THE FINDINGS OF THE ''INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY'' FORCEFULLY TO THE PRESIDENT, WHILE ALSO REFLECTING DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

HE SAID HE STRONGLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS BY CONGRESS TO PROTECT THE IDENTITIES OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS THROUGH LAWS PROHIBITING JOURNALS FROM PUBLISHING THEIR NAMES.

THE NOMINEE SAID HE ALSO WELCOMED CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO RELIEVE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES FROM REQUIREMENTS TO DIVULGE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.£

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BUT MR CASEY STRESSED THAT HE WOULD BE DILIGENT IN PROTECTING THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH EFFORTS BY CONGRESS TO OVERSEE THE WORK OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

MR CASEY SAID THAT HIS WORK AS DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN SECRET INTELLIGENCE FOR THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES DURING WORLD WAR II HELPED QUALIFY HIM FOR THE CIA DIRECTORSHIP.

HE SAID THAT SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENTS AS UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE IN 1973 AND 1974 AND AS A MEMBER OF PRESIDENT FORD'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD ALSO QUALIFIED HIM TO SERVE.£

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